



THE

KNIGHT



Volume 10, No. 8, Issue #59. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. April-May 1988

LNA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Robert J. Douchis,
Director, LNA

This year we spent our reserve funds for the purchase of a typewriter for our editor, whose old typewriter wore out after years of LNA use. We hope the membership has enjoyed the new look to *The Knight* as a result.

Postage costs have gone up 15%, from 39¢ for each issue of *The Knight* mailed, to 45¢.

The following is our balance sheet as of April 1, 1988:

INCOME

Dues & Donations:	\$1707.00
Advertising:	50.00
Mail Bid Fee:	34.99
Total:	1791.99

EXPENSES

Typewriter:	650.00
Printing:	561.28
Postage:	250.21
ANA Dues	30.00
P.O. Box rental:	22.00
Supplies:	98.36
Total:	1611.85
Balance:	\$180.14

You will be receiving a renewal notice in the mail shortly. We are keeping the suggested donation membership at \$10, although this year we are starting from "scratch" and so some donations in excess of the \$10 price would be very welcome. We thank all of you for the support you have given

Continued on page 6...

THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL GUARD GUARDIAN STAR

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis

From the time of the establishment of the Lithuanian National Guard (Lietuvos Sauliu Sajunga) on August 8, 1919, until 1930, there was no official decoration awarded by this organization. During the period 1925 to 1930, the National Guard frequently awarded civilian Congress of Vilnius Commemorative medals, which were altered by adding a loop to hold a ribbon to be worn by worthy recipients.

The Congress of Vilnius medal designed by Petras Rimša was found very suitable for the L.S.S., as its obverse depicts the Lithuanian Lady Liberty holding high the National Vytis Flag and resting on a shield bearing the National Guard's initials, "L.S.S.," and its double-barred cross insignia. This commemorative medal can frequently be seen in old photographs being worn by guardsmen.

Although the Congress of Vilnius medal was initially used by the Lithuanian National Guard to honor its members, it clearly demonstrated the need for the Guard to have a decoration of its own. In 1930, the Republic of Lithuania, under whose name the National Guard had been established, conferred on the organization the right to award decorations. The first decoration established by the Lithuanian National Guard under this authority was the Guardian Star (Sauliu Zvizdze) which was issued in this same year.

As we have found in the past, one of the best sources of information concerning Lithuanian decorations is the official Government News, *Vyriausybės Žinios*, Issue 343, published on December 20, 1930, which sets forth detailed regulations concerning Lithuanian orders, medals, and other decorations.

Continued Next Page...



Above: Lithuanian National Guard Guardian Star, OBVERSE

2. GUARDIAN STAR

Continued from page 1...

The following is a translation of the official government statute concerning the issuance and awarding of the Guardian Star decoration:

266. The Sauliu Zvaigzde (National Guard Star), is an honor award to recognize a National Guardsman or any other person who has performed meritorious deeds for the National Guard or for Lithuania.

267. The National Guard Star, is in the shape of three triangles at whose junction is the State of Arms, Vytis, which is surrounded by a ray burst and the National Guard emblem, namely, a rifle crossed with an ancient Lithuanian trumpet. On the reverse is the inscription, "Uz Nuopelnus" [For Merit], the initials of the National Guard, and the founding dates of the National Guard and the Guardian Star 1919-1930.

The National Guard Star is made of white metal. The surface of the triangle is in green enamel. The Vytis is in silver in a round red enamel field. In the center of the top triangle is the shield of the National Guard.

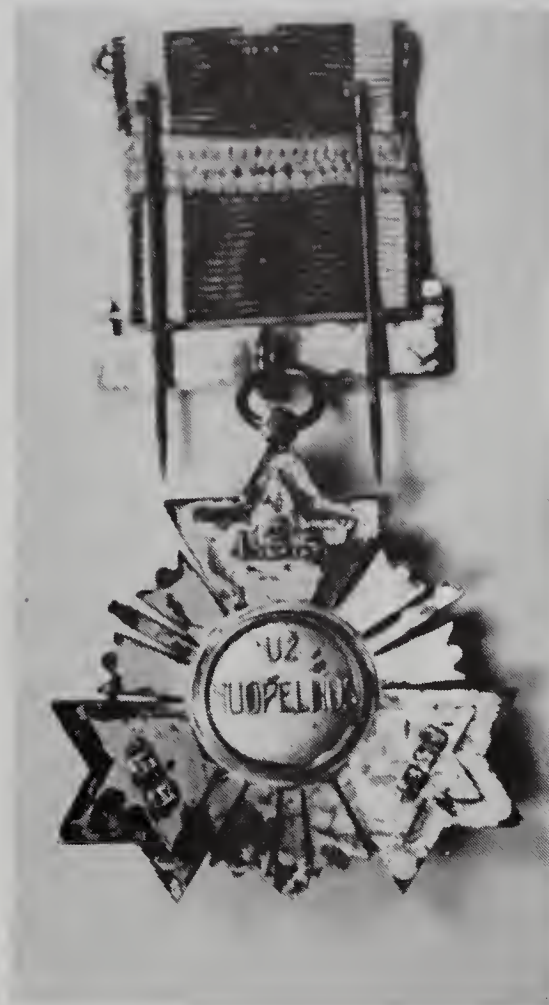
The edges of the rays and the round field (of the Vytis) is 44 mm. The ribbon is green with white stripes along the edges and a red center stripe. The ribbon for suspension passes through an ornamented clasp at the top of the medal.

268. The Guardian Star is awarded to:
1. National Guardsmen who distinguished themselves while working in positions of authority in the National Guard or to rank and file members of the National Guard who performed duties assigned to them in a conscientious, enthusiastic and persevering manner and to:
2. ordinary persons who have benefited the National Guard of Lithuania.

269. The Guardian Star may be awarded to members of a foreign national guard or ordinary (foreign) citizens who have been exceptionally beneficial to the Lithuanian National Guard.

270. The Guardian Star is awarded by the Defense Minister in the name of the President of the Republic. He (the Defense Minister) issues the award certificate.

271. The Guardian Star is presented to the Defense Minister by the National Guard Chief for the Guardian Star after the matter has been settled by the Guardian Star council. The Defense Minister awards the Guardian Star at his discretion to foreign citizens. The Defense Minister confers with the Foreign Affairs Minister with regard to making the award to a foreign national.



GUARDIAN STAR REVERSE

272. The Guardian Star is awarded annually on the National Guard Commemoration Day. In exception cases, the award can be made on other days.

273. The Guardian Star Council is composed of National Guardsmen who have been awarded the Guardian Star and ten (10) men who have the most seniority in the National Guard. This rule does not apply to the commander of the National Guard or to his direct superior.

The composition of the Council for the coming year is announced by order of the National Guard each year during the month of December.

A quorum of no less than 6 (six) is required. The Commander of the National Guard calls the Council together with permission from the Defense Minister.

The Chairman and the secretary of the Council are selected by the council themselves.

The general directives to award councils applies to the National Guard Guardian Star council.

274. Persons awarded the Guardian Star may wear it with their uniforms and with civilian clothes.

275. The awarded Guardian Star may be withdrawn by court order or at the recommendation of the Guardian Star Council, by order of the Defense Minister for offenses which are contrary to the Honor of the Guardsman.

Continued on page 4...

1936 PROPOSED 20 CENTU DESIGN

Back in 1983 we announced the discovery of plaster models for new coin designs, made by sculptor Juozas Zikaras, who designed Independent Lithuania's coins. These were to be used at the new mint which was under consideration in 1935 and 1936. The mint finally opened in June, 1936.

One of the interesting items was the proposed 10, 20, and 50 centu pieces, which were designed to feature the three major Lithuanian cities: Klaipeda (10 Centu), Kaunas (20 Centu), and Vilnius (50 Centu.). This issue we are featuring the 20 centu design, pictured above.

The design features the Kaunas City Hall, and architectural monument there. According to the *Encyclopedia Lituanica*,

"At the forefront of secular architecture in Kaunas is the City Hall, known from the 15th century. It was rebuilt in 1562 in Gothic style as seen in Makowski's engraving of 1600. It acquired its present form, late baroque with classic details in 1771-75. During the reconstruction, the building was extended in a westerly direction; a graceful six-story tower, symbol of the town's freedom, was completed somewhat later. The tower, rectangular at the base, gradually becomes narrower and ends in an octagon.

The corner pilasters and half-columns alternate from Doric to Ionic orders at each story.

In 1836 the architect K. Podczaszynski was commissioned to install a residence in the City Hall suitable for any visits of the Russian czar. The first floor was transformed into a lavish presence-chamber, furnished with expensive redwood furniture, mirrors, chandeliers, rugs, and silver dishes. In 1863 all these objects were moved to the governor's mansion. The City Hall underwent restoration



restoration work in 1955 and 1970."

The former City Hall is now called "Baltoji Gulbe (White Swan). Illustrated below from the *Encyclopedia Lituanica* is a view from the west side.



When coins were minted in Kaunas in 1936, there was already an ample supply of the 10, 20, and 50 centu coins dated 1925 (minted in England) already on hand, and no new coins were needed in these denominations. So unfortunately these designs never saw reality. There does exist, however, an off-metal version of a 1925 10 centu struck in Bronze, indicating that this was done in 1935-36 in anticipation of a possible future mintage.

4. GUARDIAN STAR

Continued from page 2...

276. The awarding of the Guardian Star is made during a National Guard Parade, celebrations or other public events, in a solemn manner in a ceremony mandated by the National Guard Central Command and approved by the Defense Minister.

277. The Guardian Star decorations are kept at the National Guard Staff Offices. The cost of the manufacture of the decorations is born by the National Guard treasury.

278. Matters related to awarding of the Guardian Star are handled and a registry of the recipients is kept by the National Guard staff.

[The authors are indebted to LNA member Al Radzius, Jr. of Baltimore, Maryland for his assistance in translating the Guardian Star Statute.]

The original Guardian Star decoration was made in silver by the firm of Hugenin Freres (Hugenin Brothers), of LeLocle, Switzerland, on contract by the Lithuanian National Guard. It was awarded by the National Guard under the previous cited statute from 1930 until 1940 when the Guard was declared illegal and ordered disbanded by the Soviet occupational government. The decoration was not officially awarded during World War II and the subsequent partisan insurrection, but it is documented that the partisans awarded decorations and this decoration was probably awarded due to a large number of former Guardsmen having joined the resistance movement.

Although the Lithuanian National Guard was ordered disbanded by the Soviets, the members of the Guard who migrated to the United States re-established the organization in 1954. Since that time the Lithuanian National Guard in Exile (Lietuvos Sauliu Sajunga Tremtyje) has awarded this decoration to worthy members under the original authority granted to the Guard by the Republic of Lithuania. The first Guardian Stars awarded in exile were silver plated copies of the originals, and were made in Italy under the direction of Pranas Pakalniskis, Santa Monica, California. These early Guardian Stars can be identified by the small stamp "ITALY" which appears on the bottom ray of the reverse side of the star. Since that time, two or three additional restrikes of this decoration have been reportedly made in Germany, Mexico, and possibly Japan. These later restrikes maintain the original design of the decoration but unfortunately have been manufactured in progressively poorer quality materials.

The current award is made of an aluminum type material with excessively large ribbon cross bar. Though the quality of the decoration manufactured has decreased over the years,

its respect and honor has continued as before. The National Guard in Exile still continues to award this decoration only to worthy recipients who have according to the original statute performed some meritorious deeds for the National Guard or Lithuania.

The Guardian Star can be seen being proudly worn by Guardsmen during their regular gatherings across the United States, Canada, and Australia. The mere survival of this decoration is another small example of Lithuania's refusal to bow to Soviet occupation.

NEXT PAGE, CERTIFICATE translation:

"The Republic of Lithuania, Guardian Star. The President of the Republic of Lithuania presents for merit to Lithuania and the National Guard, by authority of the National Defense Ministry, to P. Narvydas, is awarded the Guardian Star, sign by the Lithuanian Army commander of the Guard and the Guard's commander, at Kaunas, on the 24th day of June 1938 (Award number 82)."

The certificate was designed by Lithuanian artist Jonas Burba, whose signature can be found in the lower left corner, with the numeral "36," which we presume to mean 1936.

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This has been another article as part of a continuing series on Lithuanian military orders, medals, and decorations. Remember, you read it **First** here in **The Knight**!



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Commercial advertising rates: Business card insert: \$5, or 6 for \$25 (save \$5). 1 page: \$35; ½ page: 20; ¼ page: \$15.

Editor's Note: Believe it or not, next issue will be our Tenth Anniversary edition! We've been doing this for ten full years, and we'd like to know what the LNA has meant to you since you've been a member. I'd like to have numerous letters from the membership to include in this special issue. So please **WRITE**.

We also have leaflets for signing up new members. If you would like some, write Bob and he will send you some.



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS PREZIDENTO VARDU
UŽ NUOPELNUS LIETUVAI IR ŠAULIŲ SĄJUNGAI
KRAŠTO APSAUGOS MINISTERIO

P. Navvydas

APDOVANOTAS ŠAULIŲ ŽVAIGŽDE

Brig. gen. Gura
KARIUOMENĖS VADAS

Pulk. Salas
ŠAULIŲ SĄJUNGOS VADAS

KAUNAS, 1938 m. birželio 24 d. 82 NR



6. CONGRESS OF VILNIUS/NATIONAL GUARD MEDAL

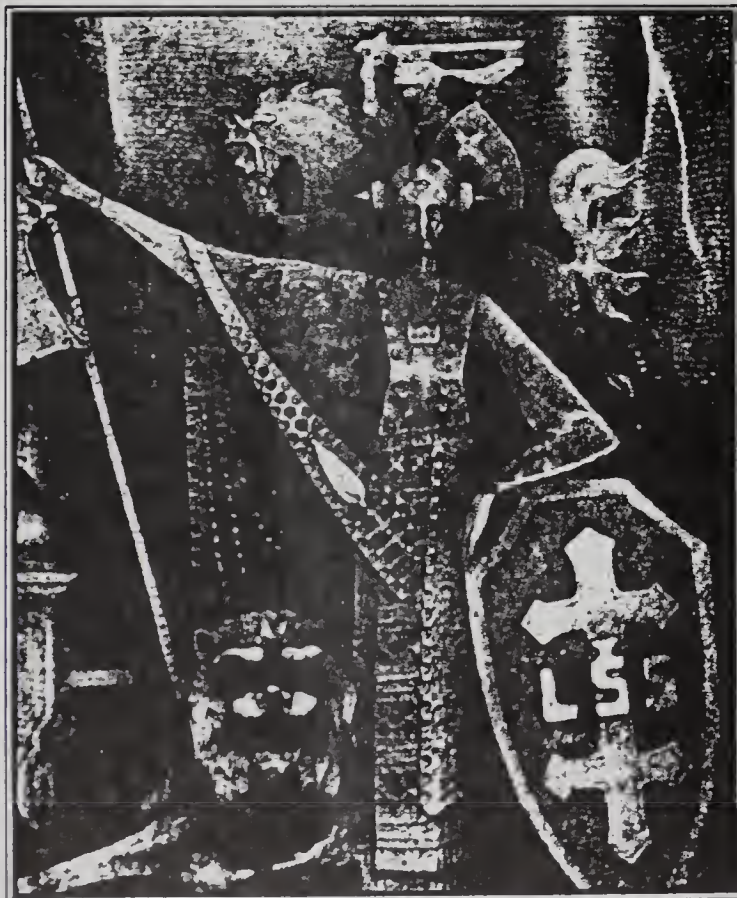
Reprinted below from the May, 1983 issue of *The Numismatist* is the description of the medal entitled "Congress of Vilnius," which features the emblem of the Lithuanian National Guard (LSS). A blow-up of that medal was illustrated on the front cover.



3. CONGRESS OF VILNIUS.

Obverse: The design focuses on the outline of the city of Vilnius, with the Hill of Gediminas in the background. The inscription reads, DIDYSIS VILNIAUS SEIMAS, which means "the great Congress of Vilnius." At the top is a phrase from the Lithuanian national anthem: IS PRAEITIES TAVE SUNUS TE STUORTBE SEMIA, which translates "may your sons draw strength from the past."

Reverse: At the top is the date 1925. Depicted is independent Lithuania standing before her throne, holding the national emblem Vytis. The chain of slavery is at her feet, and the lion at her side represents strength. Her left arm rests upon the shield with the double-barred cross, the emblem of the Lithuanian National Guard (*Lietuvos Sauliu Sajunga*), and bears its initials, L.S.S.



LNA DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1....

over the past 10 years (has it been that long?...). Your participation has enabled the LNA to continue.

The following is the list of LNA members for the past year.

*--Made a donation in excess of the basic \$10 donation.

+--Paid in advance.

I--Institutional Membership

CM--Charter Member

000--Regular Membership No.

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ANS, New York I
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 Alfonsas Stanevicius, CANADA 260
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 J. Vabalas, CT 123
 S. Valatka, NJ 194
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 Eugene Vidmantis, NY, 267
 Joseph A. Vorozilchak, PA 244
 VYTIS, NY I
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 Kazmier Wysocki, N.J. CM*
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 Frank Zapolis, IL 230
 Edward P. Zemaitis, NY 159*
 Vincent Zemaitis, NY 159*
 Peter G. Zincus, MA 175

Note: If we forgot your name,
 misspelled it, etc. let us know
 and we will make a correction.

On the right is a
 "filler" article about numismatics
 from the Encyclopedia Lituanica.

7.
 NUMISMATICS, the collection and
 study of coins, medals and other re-
 lated objects as works of art and as
 sources of information serving cul-
 tural history. The mint established in
 Vilnius in the 16th century had a col-
 lection of its own coins as well as of
 coins minted much earlier. This mint
 was closed in 1666 and its collection
 dispersed among private collectors.
 No records have survived about the
 details of this collection.

Greater interest in Lithuanian numis-
 matics developed at the end of the
 18th century. The more noted collec-
 tors at that time were Francis Bohusz
 (Bagužis) and Taddeus Czacki. Their
 followers were the professors at the
 University of Vilnius: Gottfred E. Grod-
 deck, Joachim Lelewel and Ignatius
 Danilowicz, through whose efforts the
 University's collection was enhanced
 by many valuable additions. When the
 University of Vilnius was closed in
 1832, its numismatic collection was
 transferred to the Universities of Kiev
 and Kharkov. In 1812, at the time of
 the Napoleonic War, the Radvilas
 family collection in Nesvich (Nesvy-
 žius) had also been transferred to
 Kharkov; in 1925 it was given to Po-
 land. A numismatic collection was
 amassed in Vilnius by Count Eustach
 Tyszkiewicz (Tiškevičius) and dis-

played in his Museum of Antiquity
 (1856). After the uprising of 1864, this
 collection was also dispersed. Of the
 8,110 pieces, 5,995 were taken to Mos-
 cow, there to become the nucleus for
 the Rumyantsev Museum collection. In
 Lithuania remained only a few private
 collections.

After World War I, ethnographic
 museums of independent Lithuania re-
 newed the collection of coins. The Cul-
 ture Museum in Kaunas acquired a
 large collection from the American-
 Lithuanian Aleksandras Račkus, which
 included many rare and valuable items.
 At the present time, there are sizeable
 numismatic collections in the museums
 of Vilnius, Kaunas, and Šiauliai. Good
 collections of Lithuanian coins abroad
 are found in museums in Vienna, Cra-
 cow, Warsaw, Leningrad, and Moscow.

Most of the writing about Lithua-
 nian numismatics was done by Polish
 and Russian scholars. One noted for
 the extent of his studies was the Pol-
 ish numismatist Marjan Gumowski,
 who published two studies on Lithua-
 nian coins and several works on
 medals, seals and crests. Lithuanians
 who wrote about numismatics were
 Simanas Daukantas and Tadas Dau-
 girdas; the latter left his collection to
 the City Museum of Kaunas. In inde-
 pendent Lithuania Povilas Karazija
 and Jonas K. Karys, and in America
 Juozas Adomaitis and Aleksandras
 Račkus figured in the field of numis-
 matics. Descriptions of the old and the
 independent Lithuanian coins by Jonas
 Karys were published in the United
 States in 1953-59. In Lithuania, after
 World War II, Mykolas Michelbertas
 and Adolfas Tautavičius have contrib-
 uted works on numismatics.

8. Want-ads

Want/For Sale ads are FREE to LNA members. Let's have some nice things in this column for the 10th anniversary issue.

* * *

WANTED: The 3-Presidents medal issued in 1968, struck in silver by the Franklin Mint. Also a set of the Baltic Saga medals also issued by the Franklin Mint. I am also interested in any Military items or memorabilia. Adolph V. Stankus, Jr., 4625 Mountain Lakes Blvd., Redding, CA 96003.

Editor's Note: We came across an original brochure that came with each 3-Presidents medal. It is reproduced below for you to read, as we never printed this before:

LITHUANIA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

This medal is issued by Lithuanian Foundation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Lithuanian State. The medal is in silver, 900 pure, and is one of a set of three. On the obverse of the first medal is the profile of the First King of Lithuania, Mindaugas who was crowned in 1253 and reigned until 1263. On the second medal is the head of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas the Great (1350 — 1430). On the third are heads of the three presidents of Republic of Lithuania.

The reverse side of the medal is the same on all three sets: The Knight, coat of the arms of Lithuania and the pillars of Grand Duke Gediminas (1275 — 1341) — his royal escutcheon. In ancient times and during Lithuania's independence this latter symbol was frequently used on the national currency, and was adopted as a national emblem.

The obverse of the third medal shows the three presidents who held office during the 22 years of the re-established independence of Lithuania.

The first and fourth president was Antanas Smetona. He was a law graduate, university professor, scientist, philosopher, cultural leader, and politician. Smetona, a well-educated man, was fluent in Greek, Latin, French, German, Russian, English, and Polish including Lithuanian. His terms of office were from April 4, 1919 to June 19, 1920, and from December 19, 1926 to his death on January 9, 1944.

The second president of Lithuania was Aleksandras Stulginskis. He graduated in theology and in agriculture. In 1920 he was elected to the Lithuanian Parliament, became its chairman, and was the leader of the Christian Democratic Party. He was president from June 19, 1920 to June 7, 1926.

The third president was Dr. Kazys Grinius. He graduated from Moscow University as Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Grinius was not only an able physician, but also a prominent cultural leader, politician, and head of the Liberal Party. His term of office was from June 7, to December 17, 1926.

LNA MEMBERS:

SINCE NEXT ISSUE IS OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE, I'D LIKE TO DEVOTE THIS SPACE TO LETTERS FROM YOU OUR MEMBERS. WE HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR TEN YEARS NOW, AND WE STILL HAVE MANY OF OUR ORIGINAL CHARTER MEMBERS STILL WITH US.

WHAT HAS THE LNA MEANT TO YOU? HAVE WE BEEN OF ANY HELP IN EDUCATING YOU, INFORMING YOU, AND HELPING YOU TO OBTAIN NEW ITEMS FOR YOUR COLLECTION?

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR ADS FOR WANT AD SECTION, AND ESPECIALLY FOR ARTICLES ABOUT LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS WHICH WE CAN FEATURE IN FUTURE ISSUES. MOST NEEDED ARE ARTICLES ABOUT MEDIEVAL LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS. THIS EDITOR WOULD RATHER PRINT "short" ONE OR TWO ISSUE ARTICLES, RATHER THAN A LONG SERIES ARTICLE WHICH LASTS SEVERAL ISSUES OR MORE (He has some of these ready to use if he has to).

WE HAVE TRIED TO COVER A WIDE SPECTRUM OF LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS, AND IN THE PAST TEN YEARS FEEL THAT WE HAVE COVERED QUITE A BIT. IF THERE'S SOMETHING WE'VE MISSED, OR SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE COVERED, LET US KNOW.

Sincerely,

Frank Passic, Editor.



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Karl Stephens
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